

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

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R 131056Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6677

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0729

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

GTags: PFOR TH CH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHATCHAI/IENG SARY MEETING

REF: 75 BANGKOK 26788

1. IN A JANUARY 13 CONVERSATION WITH NIT PHIBUNSONGKHRAM, CHIEF, SOUTHEAST ASIAN DIVISION, MFA, AN EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED ABOUT THE PREVIOUSLY HERALDED NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AND IENG SARY, CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. NIT SAID THAT HE TRIES "TO MAKE LIGHT OF THE DELAY" IN SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN ONLY TWO MONTHS SINCE IENG SARY'S VISIT TO BANGKOK. HE SAID A MEETING WAS STILL PLANNED BUT DECLINED TO SAY WHEN.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE SUBSTANCE TO BE COVERED IN SUCH A MEETING, NIT SAID THAT IT WOULD BE MORE A "PROGRESS REPORT" ON SUBJECTS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THAN A GROUND-BREAKER ON NEW BILATERAL ISSUES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE

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THAI WOULD PRESS FOR MORE PRECISE DELINEATION OF THE BORDER

IN THE ANG SILA AREA OF TA PHRAYA DISTRICT WHERE THE
RECENT BORDER SKIRMISHES HAVE OCCURRED.

3. COMMENT: NIT IS SELDOM A RELAXED AND CANDID INTERLOCUTOR.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE WAS NOT READY TO
DIVULGE AN IMMINENT MEETING, OR CONVERSELY DID NOT WANT TO
ADMIT THAT A MEETING WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. MANY OB-
SERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT CHATCHAI SIMPLY JUMPED THE GUN
IN ANNOUNCING THE NEXT MEETING.

4. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
IN THAILAND MAY INCREASE CHATCHAI'S DESIRE FOR A MEETING
(FOR THE PUBLICITY IT WOULD GARNER HIM), AND DECREASE THE
CAMBODIANS' INTEREST IN DEALING WITH A LAME DUCK RTG.
WHITEHOUSE

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